REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-8 are amended to even more clearly distinguish over the applied references. Reconsideration is respectfully requested. The amendments are supported by the original specification at, for example, Fig. 6, page 22, line 21-page 23, line 2, page 24, lines 4-7, page 25, lines 6-9 and page 26, lines 4-8.

I. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1-4 and 6-8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Parulski (U.S. Patent No. 5,493,335); and rejects claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Parulski in view of Mizoguchi (U.S. Patent No. 6,407,772). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

In particular, neither Parulski nor Mizoguchi, individually or in combination, discloses or suggests when the continuous shooting unit executes continuous shooting, the image compression unit performs image compression at the high compression factor regardless of the compression factor set at the setting unit if the resolution at the resolution conversion unit is set to the low resolution, as recited in independent claim 1.

Neither Parulski nor Mizoguchi, individually or in combination, discloses or suggests when the continuous shooting unit executes continuous shooting, the resolution conversion unit performs resolution conversion at the low resolution regardless of the resolution set at the setting unit if the compression factor at the image compression unit is set to the high compression factor, as recited in independent claim 3.

Neither Parulski nor Mizoguchi, individually or in combination, discloses or suggests when the continuous shooting unit executes continuous shooting, the resolution conversion unit performs resolution conversion at the low resolution regardless of the resolution set at the setting unit and the image compression unit performs image compression at the high

compression factor regardless of the compression factor set at the setting unit if the continuous shooting speed is set to the high speed, as recited in independent claim 5.

Neither Parulski nor Mizoguchi, individually or in combination, discloses or suggests when the continuous shooting unit executes continuous shooting, the resolution conversion unit performs resolution conversion at the low resolution regardless of the resolution set at the setting unit and the image compression unit performs image compression at the high compression factor regardless of the compression factor set at the setting unit, as recited in independent claim 7.

Parulski discloses in Fig. 1 and at col. 5, line 65 through col. 6, line 21 that when the user holds down the capture switch 88b with the burst mode enabled by actuation of the switch 88c, a burst of up to five low resolution images is taken in rapid succession. These images are then read out, one by one, compressed, and stored in the flash EPROM memory 66.

The Office Action acknowledges on page 4 that "Parulski does not expressly disclose that the image compression unit is capable of performing image compression at the low? compression factor when the resolution at the resolution conversion unit is set to low resolution." However, the Office Action asserts that Parulski discloses at col. 5, lines 8-10 that levels of compression may be selected in Parulski's apparatus. Thus, the Office Action asserts that one skilled in the art would provide a suitable compression factor corresponding to a variety of resolution modes.

Nowhere does Parulski disclose or suggest that the image compression unit performs image compression at the high compression factor regardless of the compression factor set at the setting unit if the resolution at the resolution conversion unit is set to the low resolution during the continuous shooting mode, as recited in independent claim 1. Parulski does not

disclose or suggest the features of independent claims 3, 5 and 7 for similar reasons as given with respect to independent claim 1.

Mizoguchi does not make up for the above noted deficiencies of Parulski. Mizoguchi discloses at col. 3, lines 6-10 that continuous photographing speed setting means 10 assigns a continuous-photographing speed during a continuous-photographing operation. An arbitrary speed equal to or lower than 60 frames/second can be assigned. With respect to Fig. 4(a), Mizoguchi discloses at col. 4, line 66 through col. 5, line 15 that changes in the display which will be produced when switching the continuous-photographing speed. Fig. 4(a) illustrates the display when the photographing mode is the continuous photographing mode with a speed of 1/15 s, the compression ratio is set to the standard mode (S), and the display contents are set to the remaining-amount display. Fig. 4(b) illustrates the display when the photographing mode is the continuous photographing mode with a speed of 1/60 s, the compression ratio is set to the standard mode (S). Fig. 6(a) illustrates the display when the photographing mode is the continuous photographing mode with a speed of 1/15 s, the compression ratio is set to the high-picture-quality mode (F). Fig. 6(b) illustrates the display when the photographing mode is set to the still-photographing mode, the compression ratio is set to the high-picture-quality mode (F). Figs. 54(b) and 6(a), cited in the Office Action, are not related to each other. Mizoguchi does not disclose or suggest a relationship between continuous photographing speed and compression factor.

Nowhere does Mizoguchi disclose or suggest that the image compression unit performs image compression at the high compression factor regardless of the compression factor set at the setting unit if the resolution at the resolution conversion unit is set to the low resolution during the continuous shooting mode, as recited in independent claim 1. Mizoguchi does not disclose or suggest the features of independent claims 3, 5 and 7 for similar reasons as given with respect to independent claim 1.

Therefore, independent claims 1, 3, 5 and 7 define patentable subject matter. Claims 2, 4, 6 and 8 depend from the respective independent claims, and therefore also define patentable subject matter as well as for the additional features they recite. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) are respectfully requested.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-8 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: December 29, 2003

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